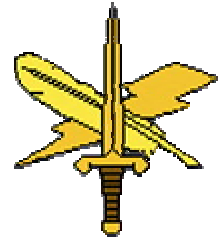




NEWS RELEASE

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Dec. 27, 2006

FORT RILEY TRANSITION TEAM SOLDIER DIES

Sgt. 1st Class Dexter E. Wheelous, 37, died as a result of an improvised explosive device attack Dec. 25 in Baghdad, Iraq. Wheelous was conducting a combat mission when an IED detonated. He was assigned to the 842nd Military Transition Team, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley.

Wheelous was originally from Winder, Ga. He entered the Army August 1987 and worked as a recruiter before being assigned to the transition team mission at Fort Riley in July 2006.

This was Wheelous's first combat deployment.

Approximately 480 Fort Riley trained Transition Team Soldiers are currently deployed in support of operations around the world. This incident brings the number of Fort Riley Soldiers who have died while serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to 80, including 11 from reserve component units mobilized through Fort Riley.